

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for the treatment of water related outer ear canal disorders comprising the steps of applying a water resistant agent and antimicrobial [[film]] agent in a film forming liquid to form a composition topically to the external ear canal,

the antimicrobial agent consisting of an essential oil selected from a group consisting of the essential oils of *Melaleuca alternifolia*, *Melaleuca dissitiflora*, and *Melaleuca linariiflora*.

wherein the composition consists of no more than the water repellent agent and the antimicrobial agent.

2. (Currently Amended) A composition for the treatment of water related outer ear canal disorders comprising a water repellent agent and an antimicrobial agent in a film forming liquid capable of being instilled in the outer ear canal in droplet form,

the antimicrobial agent consisting of an essential oil selected from a group consisting of the essential oils of *Melaleuca alternifolia*, *Melaleuca dissitiflora*, and *Melaleuca linariiflora*.

wherein the composition consists of no more than the water repellent agent and the antimicrobial agent.

3. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 2 in which the water repellent agent is constituted by a water repellent silicone polymer adapted, in combination with the antimicrobial agent or on its own, to constitute ~~a film~~ the film forming liquid.

4. (Original) A composition according to claim 3 in which the silicone polymer is constituted by a polysiloxane.

5. (Currently amended) A composition according to claim 2 in which the antimicrobial agent is ~~a natural product~~ capable of acting against a broad range of bacterial and fungal infections.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A composition for the treatment of water related outer ear canal disorders ~~comprising~~ consisting of no more than a water repellent agent in the form of a polysiloxane and an antimicrobial agent ~~in the form~~ consisting of the essential oil selected from a group of essential oils of *Melaleuca alternifolia*, *Melaleuca dissitiflora*, and *Melaleuca linariiflora* ~~or Tea Tree oil~~ in which polysiloxane and the two oils antimicrobial agent are combined to produce a film forming liquid that is capable of being applied topically to the external ear canal by instillation in droplet form.

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8. (Cancelled)

9. (Cancelled)